19 04032 A Document 1 Filed 09/04/19 Page 1 of 42032

IL COVER SHEET JS 44 (Rev 02/19) The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judget of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM) DEFENDANTS I. (a) PLAINTIFFS Barnett Outdoors, LLC, Plano Synergy Holdings, Inc. Kennedy, Scott E. America, Inc Pinellas County, FL (b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Bucks County, PA County of Residence of First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES) IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED Attorneys (If Known) (c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) Leonard Hill, Jason Javie, Hill and Associates, 1700 Market Street, Suite 3150, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103 (215) 567-7600 II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only, III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL HARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant) ity Cases Only) DEF PTF US Government ☐ 3 Federal Question his State **6**7 4 (U.S. Government Not a Party) Citizen of **अ×** 1. J rporated or Principal Place O 4 Plaintiff of Business In This State **X** 5 Incorporated and Principal Place of Another State T 2 U.S. Government Citize versity of Business In Another State (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III) Defendant Citizen or Subject of a \Box 3 CJ 3 Foreign Nation п eign Country Click here for Nature of Suit Code Descriptions IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box OTHER STATUTES FORFEITURE/PENALTY BANKRUPTCY PERSONAL INJU PERSONAL INJURY 7 625 Drug Related Seizure 7 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 375 False Claims Act CI 110 Insurance 7 423 Withdrawal ☐ 376 Qui Tam (31 USC) 310 Airplane 365 Personal Injury of Property 21 USC 881 J 120 Marine 28 USC 157 3729(a)) ☐ 130 Miller Act 315 Airplane Prod Product Liability □ 690 Other ☐ 140 Negot₁able Instrument Liability 367 Health Care/ -PROPERTY RIGHTS 410 Antitrust 3 150 Recovery of Overpayment narmaceutical 320 Assault, Libe Personal Injury 7 820 Copyrights 3 430 Banks and Banking & Enforcement of Judgmen Slander 7 830 Patent ¬ 450 Commerce 330 Federal Employers Product Liability 7 151 Medicare Act ☐ 368 Ashestos Personal 3 835 Patent - Abbreviated ☐ 460 Deportation 3 152 Recovery of Defaulted Liability New Drug Application 7 470 Racketeer Influenced and □ 340 Маппе Injury Product Student Loans J 840 Trademark Corrupt Organizations (Excludes Veterans) 345 Marine Produc Liability PERSONAL PROPERTY LABOR *SOCIAL SECURIT 480 Consumer Credit 3 153 Recovery of Overpayment Liability CJ 370 Other Fraud 710 Fair Labor Standards 7 861 HIA (1395ff) 3 485 Telephone Consumer of Veteran's Benefits 350 Motor Vehicle CJ 355 Motor Vehicle 7 862 Black Lung (923) Protection Act 371 Truth in Lending 160 Stockholders' Suits Act 7 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) ☐ 490 Cable/Sat TV Product Liability 720 Labor/Management 380 Other Personal 190 Other Contract 7 864 SSID Title XVI ☐ 850 Securities/Commodities/ Relations Property Damage 3 195 Contract Product Liability 7 360 Other Personal 740 Railway Labor Act 7 865 RSI (405(g)) Exchange 385 Property Damage ☐ 196 Franchise Injury 751 Family and Medical 3 890 Other Statutory Actions 362 Personal Insury -Product Liability J 891 Agricultural Acts Medical Malpractice Leave Act FEDERAL TAX SUITS REAL PROPERTY CIVIL RIGHTS PRISONER PETITIONS 790 Other Labor Laugation 3 893 Environmental Matters 7 791 Employee Retirement 7 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff 3 895 Freedom of Information 7 210 Land Condemnation 7 440 Other Civil Rights Habeas Corpus: or Defendant) J 463 Alien Detainee Income Security Act 220 Foreclosure ☐ 510 Motions to Vacate 3 871 IRS Third Party 3 896 Arbitration ☐ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment C 442 Employment 26 USC 7609 ☐ 899 Administrative Procedure Sentence ☐ 240 Torts to Land 7 443 Housing/ 3 245 Tort Product Lability Accommodations 7 530 General Act/Review or Appeal of IMMIGRATION Agency Decision Cl 535 Death Penalty 7 290 All Other Real Property 7 445 Amer w/Disabilities 7 950 Constitutionality of Employment Other 7 462 Natura ization Application 465 Other Immigration State Statutes 540 Mandamus & Other 3 446 Amer w/Disabilities ☐ 550 Civil Rights Other Actions 7 448 Education 555 Prison Condition ☐ 560 Civil Detainee Conditions of Confinement ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only) 7 6 Multidistrict 8 Multidistrict Ofiginal 2 Removed from (J 3 Remanded from 7 4 Reinstated or J 5 Transferred from Litigation -Litigation oceeding State Court Appellate Court Reopened Another District Transfer Direct File (specify) Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity, 28 U.S.C. Sections 1332(a)(1) and 1332 (c)(1) CAUSE OF ACTION Brief description of cause Action for injuries sustained while using defective product, Diversity action VII. REQUESTED IN DEMAND \$ CHECK YES only if d manded in mplaint CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION 1,000,000 00 UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv P JURY DEMAND X Yes COMPLAINT: $\Im N_0$ VIII. RELATED CASE(S) (See instructions) IF ANY JUDGE DOCKET NUMBER

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

AMOUNT

RECEIPT #

700

JUDGE

MAG JUDGE

Case 2:19-cv-04032-GAM Document 1 Filed 09/04/19 Page 2 of 12

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT OR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

DESIGNATION FORM
plaintiff to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to the appropriate calendar)

Address of Plaintiff 1418 Arbutus Avenue, Langhorne, Pennsylvania 19047				
Address of Defendant 955 Live Oak Street, Tarpon Springs, Florida 34689				
Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction. Bucks County, Pennsylvania				
RELATED CASE, IF ANY:				
Case Number Date Terminated.				
Civil cases are deemed related when Yes is answered to any of the following questions.				
Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year Yes No previously terminated action in this court?				
Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit Yes No Performance of the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit Yes				
3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier No				
4 Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rights Yes No No				
I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is this court except as noted above. DATE 09/04/2019 Attorney-a-Law / Pro Se Plaintiff Attorney ID # (if applicable)				
CIVIL: (Place a v in one category only)				
A. Federal Question Cases: B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:				
Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts Insurance Contract and Other Contract Insurance Insurance Contract Insurance Contract Insurance Contract Insurance Contract Insurance Insurance Insurance Insurance Insurance Contract Insurance Insura				
ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION (The effect of this certification is to remove the case from eligibility for arbitration)				
Jason Javie , counsel of record or pro se plaintiff, do hereby certify				
Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53 2, § 3(c) (2), that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of \$150,000 00 exclusive of interest and costs.				
Relies other than monetary damages is sought. SEP - 4 2019				
DATE 09/04/2019 PA 309840				
Attorney-at Law / Pro Se Plaintiff Attorney I D # (if applicable)				

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

Scott E. Kenne	dy :	CIVIL ACTION		
filing the complaint and serve side of this form.) In the e designation, that defendant s the plaintiff and all other par	Holdings Inc.: I Justice Expense and Delay Red se Management Track Designation of a copy on all defendants. (See § event that a defendant does not a shall, with its first appearance, surties, a Case Management Track I eves the case should be assigned.	1:03 of the plan set forth on the gree with the plaintiff regard built to the clerk of court and	e reverse ding said serve on	
SELECT ONE OF THE FO	OLLOWING CASE MANAGE	MENT TRACKS:		
(a) Habeas Corpus - Cases l	brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 t	hrough § 2255.	()	
(b) Social Security – Cases and Human Services den	()			
(c) Arbitration - Cases required to be designated for arbitration under Local Civil Rule 53.2. ()				
(d) Asbestos – Cases involvi exposure to asbestos.	()			
(e) Special Management – Cases that do not fall into tracks (a) through (d) that are commonly referred to as complex and that need special or intense management by the court. (See reverse side of this form for a detailed explanation of special management cases.)				
(f) Standard Management –	Cases that do not fall into any or	ne of the other tracks.	$\overline{}$	
9-4-19 Date	JASON JAVIE Attorney-at-law	SCOTT E. Kenn Attorney for		
215-567-7600	215-405-2724	jason@hilljusti	ce.com	
Telephone	FAX Number	E-Mail Address		

(Civ. 660) 10/02





UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

SCOTT E. KENNEDY

CIVIL ACTION

Plaintiff

CASE NO.

4032

vs.

:

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

BARNETT OUTDOORS, L.L.C. PLANO SYNERGY HOLDINGS, INC. HEARTLAND AMERICA, INC.

Defendants

CIVIL ACTION COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, Scott E. Kennedy (hereinafter referred to as "Plaintiff" unless indicated otherwise), by and through his undersigned attorneys, Hill and Associates, hereby complains as follows against Defendants, Barnett Outdoors, L.L.C., Plano Synergy Holdings, Inc., and Heartland America, Inc., as follows:

JURISDICTION & VENUE

- 1. Jurisdiction in this Court is asserted under the provisions of 28 U.S.C. Sections 1332(a)(1) and 1332 (c)(1).
- 2. Venue is appropriately laid in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391(b)(2) as a substantial part of the events giving rise to these claims occurred in Bucks County, Pennsylvania which is wholly within the boundaries of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

PARTIES

3. Plaintiff reincorporates all preceding paragraphs.

- 4. Plaintiff, Scott E. Kennedy, is an adult individual and resident of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania with an address at 1418 Arbutus Avenue, Langhorne, Bucks County, Pennsylvania 19047.
- 5. Defendant, Barnett Outdoors, LLC ("Barnett"), is a limited liability corporation with a principle place of business located at 955 Live Oak Street, Tarpon Springs, Florida, 34689.
- 6. Defendant, Plano Synergy Holdings, Inc. ("Plano Synergy") is a Delaware corporation headquartered at 431 East South Street, Plano, Illinois, 60545.
- 7. Defendant, Heartland America, Inc. ("Heartland America"), is a corporation with a principle place of business located at 8085 Century Boulevard, Chaska, Minnesota, 55318.
- 8. At all relevant times, Defendants Barnett and Plano Synergy were in the business of designing, manufacturing, assembling and selling crossbows.
- 9. At all relevant times, Defendants Barnett and Plano Synergy intended for their crossbows to reach consumers throughout the continental United States.
- 10. In this regard, Defendants Barnett and Plano Synergy intended, desired and expected that the crossbows in question would enter into the stream of commerce and ultimately be sold to consumers in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.
- 11. On information and belief, crossbows designed, manufactured, assembled and sold by Defendants Barnett and Plano Synergy are sold in retail establishments located throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- 12. Defendants Barnett and Plano Synergy reach customers in Pennsylvania through their marketing, direct sales and/or sales effectuated via the assistance of third parties.
- 13. Defendant, Barnett maintains a website advising owners and potential owners of their products of the legality of their bows in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

- 14. At all relevant times, Defendant Heartland America operated a mail-order catalog business selling, *inter alia*, hunting equipment and accessories, including crossbows.
- 15. At all relevant times, Defendant Heartland America was in the business of selling, inter alia, hunting equipment and accessories, including crossbows manufactured by Defendants Barnett and Plano Synergy.
- 16. Defendant Heartland America routinely caused catalogs advertising products including products manufactured by Defendants Barnett and Plano Synergy to be delivered to current and potential customers in Pennsylvania.
- 17. Defendant Heartland America routinely contracted with citizens of Pennsylvania to arrange for the shipment and delivery of products manufactured by Defendants Barnett and Plano Synergy into the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- 18. In this personal injury action, the amount in controversy is in excess of \$75,000.00 for the reasons further set forth below.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

- 19. Plaintiff reincorporates all preceding paragraphs.
- 20. Defendants Barnett, Plano Synergy and Heartland America have decades of experience in the design, manufacture, marketing, assembly, sale and shipment of crossbows throughout the United States of America.
- 21. On or before October 9, 2012, Defendants Barnett and Plano Synergy sold or otherwise placed one or more Barnett Quad 400 Crossbows (also "the product") into the stream of commerce.
 - 22. On or before October 9, 2012, Defendant Heartland America began to sell or

facilitate the sale of Barnett Quad 400 Crossbows on behalf of or with the knowledge and acquiescence of, Defendant Barnett.

- 23. Regardless of the actual relationship between Defendant Heartland America and Defendants Barnett and Plano Synergy in this regard, Defendant Heartland America played an integral role in arranging for the sale and delivery of Barnett Crossbows to consumers in Pennsylvania.
- 24. On or about October 9, 2012, the Plaintiff contracted with Defendant Heartland America to purchase a Barnett Quad 400 Crossbow that was manufactured by Defendants Barnett and Plano Synergy, bearing product no. 65504.
- 25. This contract benefited Defendant Heartland America and Defendants Barnett and Plano Synergy financially.
- 26. After receiving payment, Defendant Heartland America sent or arranged for the shipment of a Barnett Quad 400 Crossbow to the Plaintiff's residence in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.
- 27. Plaintiff Kennedy received the crossbow in the same condition and/or substantially same condition as when it left the possession of Defendants Heartland America, Barnett and Plano Synergy.
- 28. On or about October 31, 2017, Plaintiff, Scott E. Kennedy, was hunting his Barnett Quad 400 Crossbow in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, within the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.
- 29. On that date, the bowstring snapped forward striking a portion of the Plaintiff's left thumb, resulting in a partial traumatic transphalangeal amputation of the left thumb.
- 30. The injury required surgical attention, resulted in permanent scarring and/or disfigurement as well as pain and suffering for which the Plaintiff seeks just compensation.

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COUNT 1: PRODUCTS LIABILITY-DEFECTIVE DESIGN RESTATEMENT (SECOND) OF TORTS § 402A (1965) Scott E. Kennedy v. All Defendants

- 31. The Plaintiff reincorporates all preceding paragraphs.
- 32. The Quad 400 Crossbow manufactured and sold by Defendants Barnett, Plano Synergy and Heartland America to the Plaintiff was sold in a defective condition unreasonably dangerous to users or consumers because the crossbow was not equipped with a finger/thumb guard.
- 33. These inexpensive and readily available thumb guards were not included with the product or as an option for the product at the time of Plaintiff's purchase.
- 34. The purpose of a finger or thumb guard is to physically prevent the shooter's thumb or fingers from inadvertently rising into the path of the bowstring while he or she is using the crossbow.
 - 35. The absence of a finger or thumb guard is a design defect.
- 36. At the time of the sale, Defendants Barnett, Plano Synergy and Heartland America were in the business of designing, manufacturing, assembling and selling crossbows including the Quad 400.
- 37. Defendants Barnett, Plano Synergy and Heartland America knew or expected that crossbows they sold would reach users without substantial change in condition.
- 38. The Barnett Quad 400 Crossbow did in fact reach the end user, *viz.*, Plaintiff Scott E. Kennedy without a substantial change in condition.
- 39. At the time of the manufacture and sale of the bow to the Plaintiff, Defendants Barnett, Plano Synergy and Heartland America knew or should have known that amputations or partial amputations were likely to occur and further that these injuries could be prevented by the

inclusion of a finger guard.

- 40. At the time of the manufacture and sale of the bow to the Plaintiff, Defendants Barnett, Plano Synergy and Heartland America had the benefit of years of actual knowledge that amputations or partial amputations caused by bowstrings were occurring but outrageously continued to sell crossbows in a defective condition with evil motive and/or reckless indifference.
- 41. At the time of the manufacture and sale of the bow to the Plaintiff, Defendants Barnett, Plano Synergy and Heartland America had actual knowledge that other manufacturers were including finger or thumb guards in order to prevent these injuries.
- 42. Inclusion of finger or thumb guards was not prohibitively expensive, would not have materially changed the product and would not have prevented the product's use for its intended purpose.
- 43. While Defendants Barnett, Plano Synergy and Heartland America ultimately decided to revise the design to include a finger or thumb guard on new models, these Defendants continued to sell and push for the sale of the defective models to clear existing inventory.
- 44. The decision to design, manufacture, assemble, market and sell crossbows in this defective condition irrespective of the known hazards was malicious, wanton, reckless disregard for the safety of the intended end users thereby warranting imposition of punitive damages.
- 45. While using the bow in its defective condition on October 31, 2017, the Plaintiff sustained serious and permanent injuries, *viz.* partial traumatic transphalangeal amputation of the left thumb, requiring surgical intervention.
 - 46. The design defect was the factual and legal cause of the injury.
 - 47. At all relevant times, the Plaintiff was using the product for its intended purpose.
 - 48. The Plaintiff likewise sustained severe pain and suffering, loss of feeling and loss

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of dexterity which inhibited his ability to perform his customary and usual duties.

- 49. As a result of the design defect noted above, Plaintiff was forced to expend various sums of money on medical and related expenses.
- 50. The Plaintiff likewise suffered permanent disfigurement notwithstanding timely medical intervention.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff requests judgment against the Defendants for compensatory damages, punitive damages, and pain and suffering in an amount in excess of \$75,000.00.

COUNT 2: NEGLIGENCE Scott E. Kennedy v. All Defendants

- 51. Plaintiff reincorporates all preceding paragraphs.
- 52. At all relevant times, Defendants Barnett, Plano Synergy and Heartland America were operating under a duty to exercise reasonable care in the design, manufacture and distribution and sale of crossbows to the public.
 - 53. The Defendants breached the above-referenced duty by:
 - a. Manufacturing, designing and assembling an unreasonably dangerous product;
 - b. Failing to equip the crossbow in question with the appropriate safety device(s), to wit, a finger/thumb guard;
 - c. Selling an unreasonably dangerous product; and
 - d. Placing an unreasonably dangerous product into the stream of commerce
- 54. The Defendants' breach was outrageous, evidencing evil motive and/or reckless indifference in light of knowledge of serious, permanent injuries previously sustained by users.
- 55. The product in question reached the Plaintiff here in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

56. The Plaintiff received the product in the same condition or substantially the same

condition as when it left the control of the Defendants.

57. As a result of this breach, the Plaintiff, Scott E. Kennedy, suffered severe and

permanent injuries, viz. a partial traumatic transphalangeal amputation of the left thumb, while

using the negligently designed product as more fully described above.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff requests an award of compensatory and punitive damages in an

amount in excess of \$75,000.00 for the continuing unlawful intrusion, temporal loss of value, costs

incurred and pain and suffering, all of which are the direct and proximate result of the Defendant's

tortious conduct.

Respectfully submitted,

HILL AND ASSOCIATES

By:

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Attorneys for the Plaintiff

Dated: September 4, 2019

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VERIFICATION

The undersigned states that he/she is the plaintiff herein and verifies that the statements made in the foregoing Complaint-Civil Action is true and correct to the best of his/her knowledge, information and belief; and that this statement is made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa. C.S. 4904 relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

DATED: Sept 4, 2018 Signature Scott E.